

THE MONKS' RULE OBSERVANCE

Before the rule observance there are 9 duties:

1. Sweeping the place.
2. Lighting the place.
3. Providing sitting mats.
4. Providing water for drinking & using.
5. Bringing the consent of monks who are qualified to give consent.
6. Reporting the purity of monks who cannot join in the rule observance.
7. Noting the season.
8. Counting the monks.
9. Instructing the nuns.

This is the winter-(summer-, rainy-) season and in this season there are 8 rule observances.

Today is the (sixth).

The monks are counted as those in the hall and participating in the rule observance.

There are 4 monks in the hall.

There are 3 possible days, the 14th, the 15th and the concordance day. Today is the 15th.

Of the 4 or more monks who have gathered here none may be subject to an offence entailing disrobing or excluded by the community.

They must be within arms-length in the same boundary.

They must not have committed the same offences, such as taking food in the wrong time, nor for any other reason be excluded .

With these 4 conditions fulfilled it is the suitable time to perform the rule observance.

Let us begin.

(The invitation of the elder:)

With the permission of the community who has completed the duties and sat down, I invite you to recite the rule observance.

HOMAGE TO THE BLESSED ONE, ARAHANT & PERFECTLY AWAKENED. (3x)

Venerable sirs, let the community hear me. Today is the rule observance of the 15th. Let the community carry out the rule observance, let it recite the rule summary. Are the preliminaries for the community in order? Let the venerable ones announce any declaration of purity given to them by absent monks. I shall recite the rule summary. Let all present listen and attend carefully. Should anyone have committed an offence he should have confessed it. Should he have committed no offence, let him also keep silent. I shall by their silence know that the venerable ones are pure. Just as one who is questioned individually has an answer ready, so too, whoever fails to declare an unconfessed offence, after having gone through the motion and 3 announcements, on remembering it, is guilty of false speech in full awareness. Venerable sirs, false speech in full awareness has been declared by the Blessed One to be obstructive to progress. Therefore, any unconfessed offence should be confessed by a monk who remembers to have committed it and who seeks purification. To have confessed it is for his good.

There are 4 offences entailing disrobing:

1. Sexual intercourse.
2. Stealing.

3. Killing a human being.
4. Knowingly making a false claim to supernormal attainments.
I ask the venerable ones: Are you pure in this?
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For the 3rd time I ask the venerable ones: Are you pure in this?
The venerable ones are pure in this. That is why they are silent.
So I record it.

There are 13 offences entailing suspension:

1. Intentional emission of semen.
2. With lustful intention, coming in to physical contact with a woman.
3. With lustful intention, speaking lewd words to a woman.
4. With lustful intention, inviting a woman to have sexual intercourse with oneself.
5. Acting as a go-between.
6. Building a hut for oneself, by ones own means, without having obtained the community's permission or beyond 12 x 7 spans.
7. Building a community dwelling for oneself, offered by lay-people, without having obtained the community's permission.
8. With malice, accusing a monk of an offence entailing disrobing, believing him to be innocent.
9. With malice, using a verbal subterfuge as a means to accuse a monk of an offence entailing disrobing, believing him to be innocent.
10. Persistently refusing to give up one's endeavours to cause a schism in the monks' community.
11. Persistently refusing to give up support for one who endeavours to cause a schism in the monks' community.
12. Persistently refusing to accept admonishment.
13. Being corrupt, then banished, persisting to refuse giving up one's criticism of the act of banishment.

Venerable sirs, 13 offences entailing suspension have been recited.
The first 9 being established on the first transgression, the last 4 after

having gone through three motions. If the offence was knowingly concealed the offender must live under penance for as many days as he knowingly concealed it. Afterwards he has to undertake the 6-night penance. Reinstatement requires at least 20 monks.

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There are 2 indefinite cases:

1. If a monk meets a woman in a secluded place convenient for sexual intercourse and a trustworthy lay-woman accuses him to be guilty of an offence entailing disrobing, suspension or confession, he should, if he admits, be dealt with in respect of the admitted offence.
 2. If the place is only convenient for addressing lewd words, he should, if he admits be dealt with in respect to the admitted offence.
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There are 30 offences entailing confession and forfeiture:

One: The robe-cloth chapter

1. Keeping extra cloth beyond 10 days.
2. Being separated from a robe for 1 night.
3. Keeping extra cloth in order to make a robe but as yet insufficient beyond 30 days.
4. Having a robe washed, dyed or beaten by a nun.
5. Accepting cloth from a nun.
6. Accepting cloth, having asked for it, from a lay-person.

7. If one's robes are stolen, burnt or otherwise lost, one is allowed to ask for robes from a lay-person without prior invitation. If lacking all 3 one may ask for 2, if lacking 2 one may ask for 1, if lacking only 1 one should not ask. Having asked for more, receiving them is an offence.
8. Going to a lay-person who intends to offer one a robe and, without invitation, specifying the robe one desires, receiving it is an offence.
9. Going to lay-people who each intend to offer one a robe and, without invitation, asking them to pool their resources and offer one a fine robe, receiving it is an offence.
10. Having badgered an attendant who is holding a fund for one's benefit into purchasing a robe for oneself, receiving it is an offence.

Two: The silk chapter

11. Making a sitting rug for oneself mixed with silk.
12. Making a sitting rug for oneself of only black wool.
13. Making a sitting rug for oneself with more than 50% black wool.
14. Making a sitting rug for oneself more than once every 6 years.
15. Making a sitting rug for oneself without incorporating a piece from an old one.
16. Travelling more than 48 km carrying wool acquired on the journey.
17. Having wool washed, dyed or beaten by a nun.
18. Receiving money improperly, having another receive it for one, or assuming power over money kept for one.
19. Buying things.
20. Bartering.

Three: The bowl chapter

21. Keeping an extra bowl beyond 10 days.
22. Having asked for a bowl from a lay-person when one's own bowl is still useable, receiving it is an offence.
23. Keeping any of the 5 tonics - ghee, butter, oil, honey, molasses - beyond 7 days.
24. Rains-cloth should be sought for and worn at the appropriate time.

25. Having given a monk a robe, angry and displeased, snatching it back.
26. Having cloth woven with yarn asked for without invitation, receiving it is an offence.
27. Improperly specifying robe-material.
28. Storing a special robe beyond time.
29. In the month after the rainy-season a monk who lives in a dangerous place may deposit 1 robe for 6 nights. Leaving it longer is an offence.
30. Believing an offering is intended for the community, appropriating it for oneself.

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There are 92 offences entailing confession:

One: The lie chapter

1. Lying.
2. Reviling a monk.
3. Malicious tale-bearing about a monk.
4. Teaching discourses by rote to novices or lay-people.
5. Lying down at the same time, in the same place with a novice or lay-man, for more than 3 nights.
6. Lying down at the same time, in the same place with a woman.
7. Engaging in a conversation with women out of hearing of a man who understands.
8. Declaring a true supernormal attainment to novices or lay-people.
9. Informing lay-people of a monk's offence entailing disrobing or suspension.
10. Digging the earth or having it dug.

Two: The living plant chapter

11. Destroying or damaging plant-life.
12. Persistently replying evasively or keeping silent when questioned in a community meeting.
13. Groundlessly criticising an officer of the community.
14. Leaving community furniture outside where it might be damaged.
15. Not putting one's bedding away when leaving a monastery.
16. Encroaching on a monk's sleeping-place in order to drive him away.
17. Being angry, causing a monk to be turned out of a community-dwelling.
18. Endangering careless behaviour in shared hut.
19. Extravagant renovation.
20. Knowing that some water contains living beings, discharging it onto the ground, or mixing it with other substances, causing their death.

Three: The Exhortation Chapter

21. Exhorting the nuns without the community's permission.
22. Exhorting the nuns after sunset.
23. Exhorting the nuns in their own quarters.
24. Saying that a monk exhorts nuns for gain.
25. Giving cloth to a nun.
26. Sewing a robe, or having one sewn, for a nun.
27. By arrangement, going on a journey with a nun.
28. By arrangement, going on a boat-trip with a nun.
29. Eating food, knowing that it was obtained at the instigation of a nun.
30. Sitting in private with a nun.

Four: The food chapter

31. Eating repeatedly at a food distribution centre.
32. Eating food obtained in a group of four or more.

33. Eating before an invitation.
34. Taking too many sweets away.
35. Having eaten one's fill, eating again.
36. Encouraging a monk to break a food-rule in order to get him into trouble.
37. Eating after noon.
38. Eating stored food.
39. Eating fine foods like ghee, butter, oil, honey, molasses, fish, meat, milk or curd having asked for them.
40. Eating food that has not been given.

Five: The naked-ascetic chapter

41. Giving with one's own hand food to somebody ordained outside Buddhism.
42. Saying: "I want to be alone.", to a monk one has arranged to go on almsround with.
43. Sitting down with a couple when one of them does not agree to it.
44. Sitting or lying down with a woman in a concealed place.
45. Sitting or lying down with a woman in a private place.
46. Visiting families on the way to or from an invitation without explicit permission from a monk.
47. Using an invitation beyond four months.
48. Going to see the military.
49. Staying with the military for more than three nights.
50. While staying with the military, going to see a training session or a review.

Six: The alcoholic drink chapter

51. Consuming alcohol.
52. Tickling a monk.
53. Playing in the water.
54. Acting disrespectfully when admonished by a monk.
55. Attempting to frighten a monk.

- 56. Lighting a fire without good reason.
- 57. Not bathing according to the cultural norm.
- 58. Wearing an unmarked robe.
- 59. Using cloth that has been stored under joint ownership.
- 60. Hiding a monks requisites for a joke.

Seven: The animal chapter

- 61. Killing an animal.
- 62. Using water that contains living beings.
- 63. Knowing that a monks' meeting has been properly carried out urging that it be performed anew.
- 64. Concealing a monks offence entailing suspension.
- 65. Ordaining somebody under twenty.
- 66. By arrangement, travelling with thieves.
- 67. By arrangement, travelling with a woman.
- 68. Persistently refusing to give up a wrong view.
- 69. Eating, sleeping or having a monks' meeting with a monk, knowing that he is banished.
- 70. Having business with a novice, knowing that he is expelled.

Eight: The in accordance-with-the rule chapter

- 71. Being admonished by a monk about an offence, replying that one will not observe that particular rule until one has inquired about it from some other knowledgeable monk.
- 72. Disparaging the rule by saying: "Why bother with the lesser & minor rules. They're more trouble than they're worth."
- 73. Pretending ignorance as an excuse for one's offences.
- 74. Hitting a monk in anger.
- 75. Physically threatening a monk in anger.
- 76. Accusing a monk of an offence entailing suspension, believing him to be innocent.
- 77. Deliberately provoking worry in a monk, in order to make him uncomfortable.

- 78. Eavesdropping on a monk during an argument.
- 79. Having given one's consent for a monks' meeting to proceed in one's absence, afterwards criticising the meeting's decision.
- 80. Leaving during a monks' meeting without having given one's consent.
- 81. Having participated in a monks' meeting which decided to give a robe to an officer of the community, afterwards criticising the meeting's decision.
- 82. Believing an offering is intended for the community, causing it to be given to somebody else.

Nine: The treasure chapter

- 83. Entering the king's bedroom unannounced, when the king and queen are both inside.
 - 84. Picking up a valuable, except in a monastery or house.
 - 85. Going to a house between noon and dawn without explicit permission from a monk.
 - 86. Having a needle-case made out of bone, ivory or horn, it must be broken up.
 - 87. Having a bed or chair made with long legs, they must be cut down.
 - 88. Having a bed or chair upholstered with cotton, it must be stripped.
 - 89. Having a sitting-cloth made beyond 2 x 1½ spans and the border 1 span wide, it must be cut down.
 - 90. Having an itch-cloth made beyond 4 x 2 spans, it must be cut down.
 - 91. Having a rains-cloth made beyond 6 x 2½ spans, it must be cut down.
 - 92. Having a robe made, larger than the Blessed One's, which is 6 x 9 spans, it must be cut down.
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So I record it.

There are 4 offences that should be confessed:

1. Eating food offered by a nun.
2. Eating food after failing to admonish a nun who orders the hosts to serve the monks.
3. Eating food offered by lay-disciples who are declared poor & attained.
4. Eating food offered by lay-disciples in a dangerous place, if one hasn't warned them.

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There are 75 training rules concerning manners. The first 26 are on conduct in inhabited areas which should express calm and restraint.

- 1+2. I shall wear the robes correctly.
- 3+4. I shall sit & walk properly covered.
- 5-8. I shall sit & walk well restrained and with eyes downcast.
- 9+10. I shall not sit or walk with robes hitched up.
- 11-14. I shall not sit or walk laughing or being loud.
- 15-22. I shall not sit or walk with head, body or arms unrestrained or hands on hips.
- 23+24. I shall not sit or walk with head covered.
25. I shall not walk over toes or heels.
26. I shall not sit lolling.

The second 30 are on food and eating quiet and politely:

27-30. I shall accept alms carefully, with attention on the bowl, rice and curries in proportion and not overflowing the bowl.

31-34. I shall eat alms carefully, with attention on the bowl, rice and curries in proportion as it comes.

35. I shall not eat digging holes.
36. I shall not hide curries.
37. I shall not ask for rice and curries.
38. I shall not look at an other's way of eating in order to find fault.
39. I shall not eat making up extra large mouthfuls.
40. I shall make up a round mouthful.
41. I shall not open the mouth when the mouthful has not been brought to it.
42. I shall not put the fingers into the mouth.
43. I shall not speak with the mouth full.
- 44+45. I shall not eat breaking or biting food, unless appropriate.
46. I shall not eat stuffing out the cheeks.
- 47+48. I shall not eat shaking the hand or scattering rice.
- 49-51. I shall not eat putting out the tongue or making sucking or chumping sounds.
- 52-54. I shall not eat licking hand, bowl or lips.
55. I shall not accept a pot with a soiled hand.
56. I shall not throw water with grains out in an inhabited area.

The next 16 are on teaching:

- 57-60. I shall not teach one who is not sick who has an umbrella, stick, knife or weapon in his hand.
- 61+62. I shall not teach one who is not sick who has shoes or sandals on.
- 63-65. I shall not teach one who is not sick who is in a vehicle, lying on a couch or squatting disrespectfully.
- 66+67. I shall not teach one who is not sick who has his head covered.
- 68-70. I shall not teach one who is not sick who is sitting higher or sits while I am standing.
- 71+72. I shall not teach one who is not sick who is walking ahead or who is on the path while I am off.

The last 3 concern discharging:

73+74. I shall not stool or urinate on cultivated plants, into water or while standing.

75. I shall not spit on cultivated plants or into water.

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There are 7 ways to pacify conflicts that have arisen in the community:

1. By confrontation.
2. By verdict of perfect mindfulness.
3. By verdict of past insanity.
4. According to what is admitted.
5. By majority.
6. By imposing penalty.
7. By covering over with grass.

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The introduction has been recited.

The 4 offences entailing disrobing have been recited.

The 13 offences entailing suspension have been recited.

The 2 indefinite cases have been recited.

The 30 offences entailing confession and forfeiture have been recited.

The 92 offences entailing confession have been recited.

The 4 offences that should be confessed have been recited.

The 75 training rules have been recited.

The 7 ways to pacify conflicts have been recited.

This much is in the canon of the Blessed One which comes up for recitation every 2 weeks. In this all should train in concord and agreement and without dispute.

THE MONKS' RULE OBSERVANCE IS COMPLETED